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Wednesday, August 24, 2016 metro.us | t: MetroPhilly | f: MetroPhilly

'STRANGER THINGS'

Creators of the Netflix hit tell us what's next. 14

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IT'S DIVORCE SEASON

Study shows why splitting up is so popular in August. 2

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3 THINGS YOU NEED TO KNOW

DEATHS FROM LIGHTNING STRIKES THIS YEAR AT HIGHEST SINCE 2010

1 A pair of fatalities from lightning strikes over the weekend lifted the U.S. death toll from such accidents this year to 29, the most since 2010, the National Weather Service said on Monday. The latest lightning-related deaths occurred in Colorado and Michigan on Friday, the NWS said in a report. With four months left in the year, the 2016 toll has already surpassed last year's 27. Eight people have died from lightning this month, making it the deadliest August since 2007. In July, typically the month with the most fatalities, 12 people were killed by lightning. "People are outside, enjoying beaches in the summer time," said John Jensenius, an NWS lightning safety specialist based in Gray, Maine. REUTERS

US NEW HOME SALES RACE TO NEAR NINE-YEAR HIGH

2 New U.S. single-family home sales unexpectedly surged in July, reaching their highest level in nearly nine years amid robust demand, brightening the housing market outlook and bolstering views that economic growth will pick up in the third quarter. Housing market strength should offset some of the drag from manufacturing, with other data on Tuesday showing production at factories remaining constrained by weak orders. "A very rosy picture is beginning to emerge on the housing market, pointing to sustained buoyancy in the sector's recovery, which remains one of the few bright spots for the U.S. economy," said Millan Mulraine, deputy chief economist at TD Securities in New York. The Commerce Department said new home sales jumped 12.4 percent to a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 654,000 units last month, the highest level since October 2007. REUTERS

FLORIDA ANNOUNCES ZIKA CASE HUNDREDS OF MILES FROM MIAMI

3 Florida officials on Tuesday announced the first case of Zika acquired by local mosquitoes in Pinellas County, located some 265 miles from Miami, where the first locally transmitted U.S. cases were reported. Florida Gov. Rick Scott also said there were four new cases of Zika transmission in the Wynwood neighborhood of Miami, where officials have been aggressively spraying for the mosquitoes that carry the virus for weeks. The state department of health has begun door-to-door outreach in Pinellas County, testing individuals to find other cases, Scott said in a statement. He added that mosquito abatement and reduction activities are also taking place. REUTERS

Study: Divorce spikes in certain months; some lawyers are not so sure

A new study found that divorces held a consistent pattern over a 14-year period.

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Is this the season of their discontent? ISTOCK

Does your partner seem a little more annoying than usual this month? A new study suggests there might be a reason.

Researchers at the University of Washington found that divorce filings consistently spiked twice a year in that state: both in March and August.

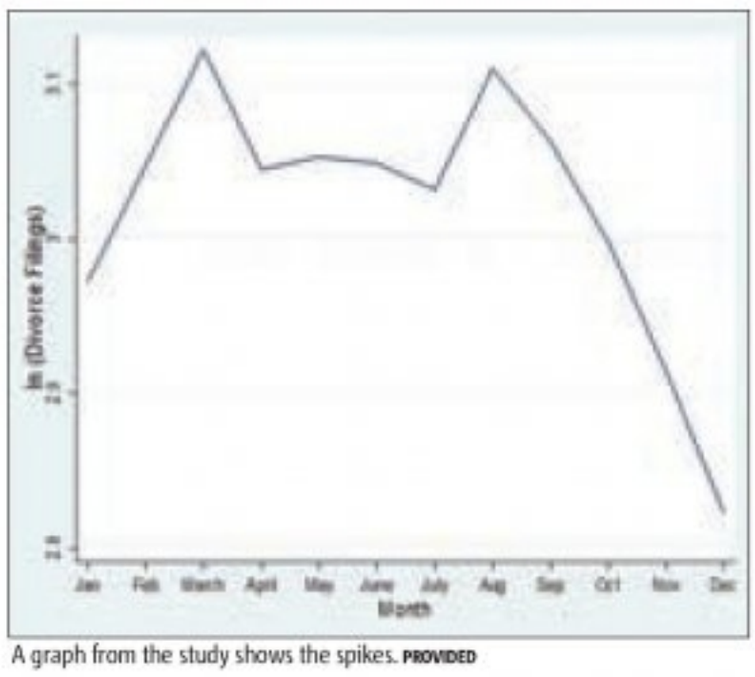
The increases appeared regularly over a 14-year period, and that pattern stayed consistent even after researchers accounted for other factors, such as unemployment or the housing market.

All that is prompting researchers to ask: why?

Associate sociology professor Julie Brines told the school's blog that the findings suggest that divorce filings may be driven by a "domestic ritual calendar" that governs family behavior. Holidays in those seasons are traditionally sacred times for families, and an atmosphere in which proposing divorce can seem inappropriate, or even culturally taboo.

Couples may also want to see if the holiday experience together might strengthen or weaken ties in the marriage, Brines said.

"People tend to face the holidays with rising expectations, despite what disappointments they might have had in years past," Brines said. "They represent periods in the year when there's the anticipation or the opportunity for a new beginning, a new start, something different, a transition into a new period of life. It's like an optimism cycle, in a sense. They're very symbolically charged moments in time for the culture."



A graph from the study shows the spikes. PROVIDED

Scientists also explored four other states — Ohio, Minnesota, Florida and Arizona — with similar divorce laws but much different demographics, and found the pattern persisted.

"What I can tell you is that the seasonal pattern of divorce filings is more or less the same," Brines said.

Metro reached out to several divorce lawyers in the cities where we publish, and found that, at least anecdotally, there was some room for disagreement with the study's findings.

Margaret Klaw, partner at Berner Klaw & Watson in Center City, said that it makes sense that filings don't start until March since consultations and meetings need to occur. People typically will initiate a divorce with the start of a new year.

"It's the second-most popular New Year's resolution after the gym," she said.

But when it comes to other peak times for divorce, Klaw said it's not as clear cut.

"People think of the start of the school year as the start of a new year … it's time to clear out closets and get the kids to school and get divorced," she said.

But for holidays, there are two types of people: the 'I don't want to ruin it for the kids' people or the 'I am not going to spend one more Christmas with that jerk' people, according to Klaw.

Philly-based attorney Thomas Petrelli Jr. said he'd been keeping his own figures to follow divorce trends in his office. He often sees a spike in March, but said that his office is typically slower in August, adding that "the second week of September all the way through Thanksgiving is probably the busiest time of the year."

His reasoning? Once kids are back in the classroom, parents are "relaxed enough" to attend a consultation with a divorce lawyer.

Petrelli said he's been keeping his own set of statistics on this phenomenon for about a decade, and his findings closely correlate those of UW.

"Whether it's taxes, or they don't like what they got for the holidays, February is, in my opinion, the worst," he said.

Additional reporting by Kimberly M. Aquilina and Alexis Sachdev

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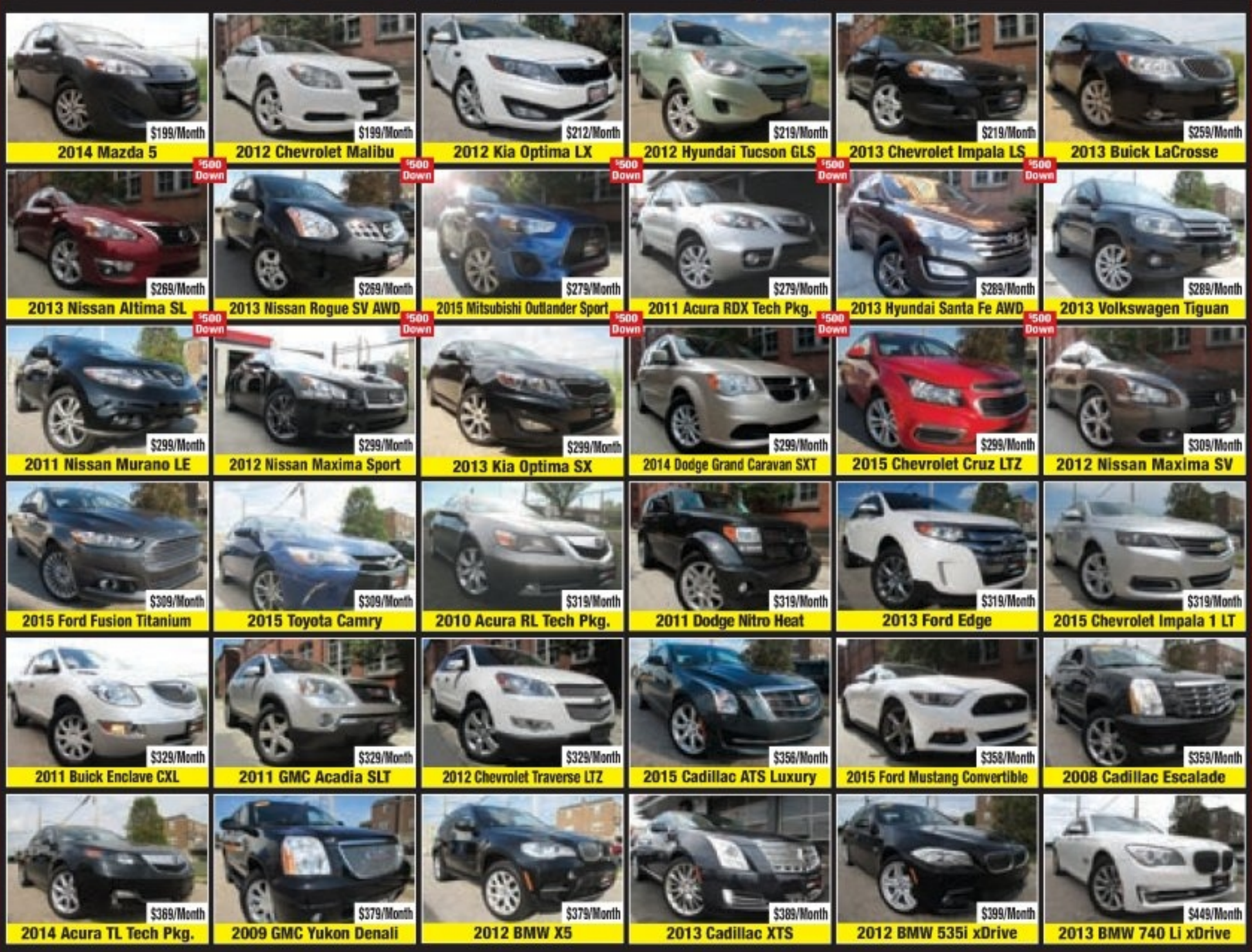

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CHILD PORN ARREST

Montco man arrested on child porn charges

A Montgomery County man is in custody after investigators said they tracked online child pornography to his laptop.

Kisu Sohn, 23, of Upper Gwynedd Township, was arrested on felony charges of distributing child pornography, the Montgomery County DA's office announced Tuesday.

Sohn allegedly admitted to investigators that he had

downloaded files showing underage males engaged in sex acts and shared them online through a peer-sharing network after an Internet Crimes Against Children (ICAC) Task Force investigator went to his home.

Investigators searching local internet traffic in June found a computer sharing "files of interest in child pornographic investigations," according to the police affidavit.

Various videos showing underage and adult males engaged in sex acts were downloaded from an IP address later traced to an Upper Gwynedd Township home, police said.

After investigators went to the home, they encountered Sohn, who consented to a search, confessed to downloading the videos, and surrendered his Dell Inspiron laptop to police, where they allegedly found two images and 59 video files.

Sohn said he downloaded some videos because he was "curious" but also admitted that he used the videos for sexual gratification, according to an affidavit.

Sohn now faces felony child pornography charges. He was released on $50,000 bail awaiting a preliminary hearing on Aug. 25. SAM NEWHOUSE

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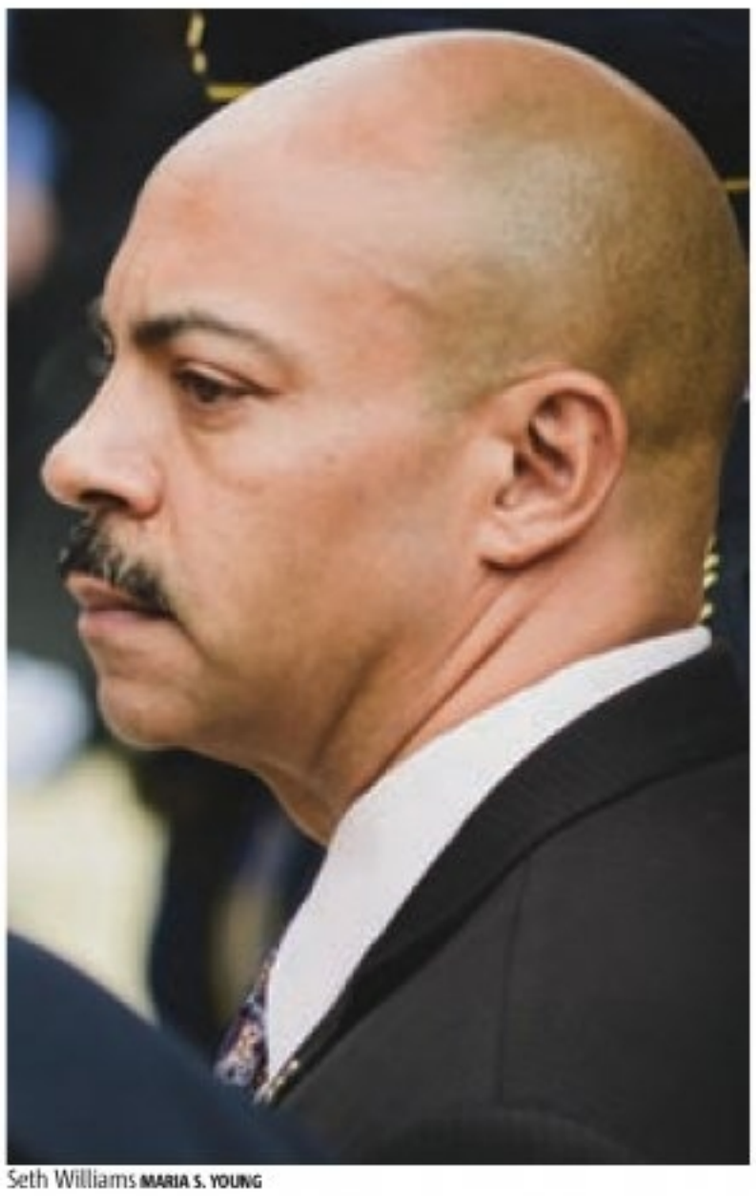

Seth Williams MARIA S. YOUNG

DA: 'I take full responsibility' for gift scandal

Philadelphia District Attorney Seth Williams has issued an apology for failing to reveal five years and $160,000 worth of previously undisclosed gifts during his time in office.

Sent to his supporters via email through his re-election political action committee, Williams had the following to say:

I would like to say thank you for your support. Many of you are long time, close friends and family and I sincerely appreciate you always standing by me.

When I first ran for district attorney it was because of a passion for what inspired me; to make a meaningful difference in the lives of Philadelphians. Without question, I've made significant progress in many of those areas. I am humbled by what we've been able to do and I continue to look forward to helping make Philadelphia a better place to live and raise our families.

One of my requirements as an elected official is to fully disclose all gifts and or in kind services I receive, even those from my closest friends and family.

I take full responsibility on failing to disclose what was required. We've taken the proper steps to make sure this doesn't happen again and will be fully compliant moving forward.

Yours in service,
Seth

The email, first reported by PhillyVoice, was sent early Monday by the Seth Williams Victory Committee. It also included a disclaimer that noted the maximum allowable contributions for individuals and PACs to Williams' campaign for re-election in 2017, Philly.com reported.

Williams' apology comes about a week after he divulged a previously unreported $160,050 in gifts, which often erred on the side of excess, like a $3,000 trip to Mexico and the Dominican Republic, almost $3,000 in Phillies and 76ers tickets, and free roof repairs totaling about $45,000. ALEXIS SACHDEV

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Pa. ranks among worst states for gender equality

According to a study by WalletHub, Pennsylvania places 47th when it comes to equality for women.

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In matters of politics and business, it appears the glass ceiling is still intact for Pennsylvania's women.

With its high gender income inequality and poor representation in government, Pennsylvania has been ranked the fourth-worst state in the nation for women, according to a study conducted by WalletHub.

Analysts compared three key metrics in determining each state's rank: workplace environment, education and political empowerment.

In the first metric, Pennsylvania ranked 46th, for its high disparity of employees in executive positions by gender, gap in number of minimum-wage workers and gap in number of entrepreneurs by gender. Women also seem to work longer hours than men. However, there's no difference between men and women in unemployment rate.

The commonwealth ranked 34th in education, where fewer women than men receive bachelor's or higher degrees. Women also score lower on math tests than men.

If she's like many Pennsylvania women, she isn't getting paid as much as her male counterparts for the same work, while at the same time shouldering more than her share of domestic chores. ISTOCK

And in political empowerment, Pennsylvania is notoriously behind, though the 2016 election hopes to shake that up.

There's a 77 percent disparity rate of lawmakers in state legislature, and a 55 percent disparity rate in state-elected executives.

No woman has ever held a governorship in Pennsylvania, nor represented the state in the Senate.

In fact, women only represent about 18 percent of the state legislature, according to the Pennsylvania Center for Women and Politics at Chatham University.

According to Kathy Ferguson, a professor in the Department of Women's Studies at the University of Hawaii, women's disparate involvement in politics is a "two-part whammy."

"[Women] continue to bear most of the responsibility in their families for the unpaid labor of child care, elder care, domestic work … and the emotional labor of relationships; while they are paid less than men for the work they do in the paid labor force," Ferguson, chair of the university's Department of Political Sciences Department, said.

Both of the nation's noncontiguous states ranked highest in WalletHub's study: Hawaii was deemed the best state for women's equality and Alaska came in at No. 2.

This study comes just days ahead of Women's Equality Day on Aug. 26, a date selected to commemorate the 19th Amendment's incorporation into the Constitution and continue awareness of efforts toward full gender equality.

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Lawyer says Sandusky is innocent, deserves new trial

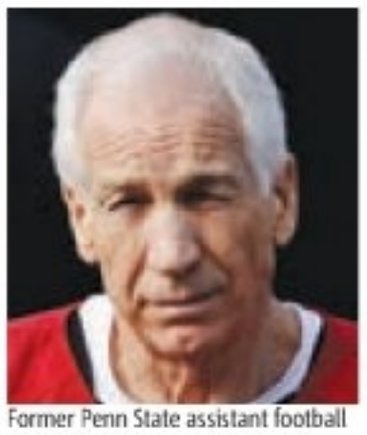
Convicted child molester Jerry Sandusky is innocent and should get a new trial, his defense lawyer told reporters following a three-day hearing in a Pennsylvania state court.

"There were so many flaws in his trial," attorney Alexander Lindsay said.

But Lindsay appeared to make little headway during the three days of hearings in proving that prosecutors illegally leaked grand jury information to a reporter in 2011, a key argument in Sandusky's bid for a new trial.

Asked whether he was saying the 10 boys who accused Sandusky of the sexual assault were liars, Lindsay said only that their testimony was factually inaccurate. He blamed the "repressed memory" therapy received by some of the boys for making them think they were victims.

"The sexual assaults by Jerry Sandusky simply did not occur," he said.



Former Penn State assistant football coach Jerry Sandusky GETTY IMAGES

But Sandusky prosecutor Joseph McGettigan, who had several testy exchanges with Lindsay while on the witness stand Tuesday, dismissed that assertion.

"I live in the real world," McGettigan told reporters.

To win a new trial, Lindsay must show that Sandusky's original lawyer, Joseph Amendola, was so incompetent that his client did not receive a fair trial.

Lindsay sought to link the 2011 Pulitzer Prize-winning expose of Sandusky by Harrisburg Patriot-News reporter Sara Ganim to illegal grand jury leaks by prosecutors. He has argued that Amendola should have asked for the indictment to be tossed out because the grand jury process was tainted.

Jonelle Eshbach, a Sandusky prosecutor, testified Tuesday that she believed Ganim had received grand jury leaks, and worked with Frank Fina, another prosecutor, to lay a trap for the leaker.

"No one took the bait," she said.

On cross-examination, Eshbach said many people with knowledge of the grand jury's work, including other witnesses, were not sworn to secrecy as prosecutors are.

Both Eshbach and Fina denied knowing who supplied Ganim with the information. REUTERS

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In attacking Clinton Foundation, Trump seeks a GOP rallying cry

Trump began hammering the Democrat this week over the Clinton Foundation, an organization created by her and her husband former President Bill Clinton that funds aid programs in developing countries.

Donald Trump GETTY IMAGES

After struggling to find a consistent message and consolidate party support, Donald Trump is honing his attack on Democratic presidential rival Hillary Clinton and the foundation bearing her family's name in hopes of making it a rallying cry for fellow Republicans.

On Monday, Trump called for the foundation to be shut down and for a special prosecutor to be named to investigate it. In particular, he accused Clinton of having turned the charity into a "pay-for-play" scheme in which wealthy donors to the organization got favors from the State Department while Clinton was secretary of state from 2009-13. The Clinton campaign denied that, saying Clinton never took any action because of donations to the foundation.

After a primary campaign that left the party bitterly divided, Trump has struggled to find an attack line that fellow Republicans can rally behind. His criticism of the parents of a dead Muslim American soldier who spoke at the Democratic National Convention drew strong rebukes from many in his own party. His attacks on Clinton's health have been dismissed as conspiracy theories.

Clinton, who leads in nearly every national and swing state opinion poll ahead of the Nov. 8 election, has largely avoided criticism about the foundation, although there was a spate of media investigations last year after she announced she was running for president. Her main Democratic rival, Sen. Bernie Sanders, did not attack her on that front during the primary campaign.

The focus on the foundation is likely to build some confidence among Republicans that Trump's campaign is healing internal divisions. Last week, Trump shook up his campaign's top leadership, putting Steve Bannon and Kellyanne Conway in top jobs. Campaign chairman Paul Manafort resigned.

Chris Collins, a Republican member of Congress, said supporters have been urging Trump to focus on Clinton.

"Anything we can do to put her character forefront in the campaign is going to help Donald Trump," Collins said in a phone interview.

REUTERS

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CNN: Russia suspected in hack of New York Times, other US media

Pedestrians walk by the The New York Times building in New York City. GETTY IMAGES

The FBI and other U.S. security agencies are investigating cyber breaches targeting reporters at the New York Times and other U.S. news organizations that are thought to have been carried out by hackers working for Russian intelligence, CNN reported on Tuesday, citing unnamed U.S. officials.

"Investigators so far believe that Russian intelligence is likely behind the attacks and that Russian hackers are targeting news organizations as part of a broader series of hacks that also have focused on Democratic Party organizations, the officials said," CNN said.

Reuters could not immediately confirm the report. The FBI declined to comment, and representatives for the Secret Service, which has a role in protecting the country from cyber crime, did not immediately reply to a request for comment.

The intrusions were detected in recent months, according to CNN. Citing the U.S. officials, it said the Times had hired private security investigators to work with national security officials in assessing the breach.

Representatives for the Times could not be immediately reached for comment.

News of the cyber attack comes amid a wave of similar attacks targeting major U.S. political parties that have surfaced in recent weeks ahead of the Nov. 8 presidential election.

The Democratic National Committee, Democratic presidential candidate Hillary Clinton's campaign and the party's congressional fundraising committee have all been affected.

Hackers have also targeted the computer systems of Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump and Republican Party organizations, sources have told Reuters.

If confirmed, the breach at the Times would not be the first time foreign hackers infiltrated a news organization: Media are frequently targeted in an order to glean insights into U.S. policies or to spy on journalists.

In 2013, a group of hackers known as the Syrian Electronic Army also attacked Times and other media outlets. Chinese attackers also infiltrated the Times that year. REUTERS

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Obama promises

More than 2½ feet of rain fell on parts of the state in the worst U.S. disaster since 2012's Superstorm Sandy. At least 13 deaths have been attributed to flooding and more than 60,000 homes have been damaged.

President Barack Obama walked door to door in an East Baton Rouge Parish neighborhood on Tuesday hugging people and offering assurances that the country would help them recover from some of the worst floods ever recorded in Louisiana.

"What I want the people of Louisiana to know is, you're not alone on this, even after the TV cameras leave," Obama said after touring brick homes whose lawns were cluttered with slabs of drywall and soaked sofas and mattresses.

More than 100,000 people have applied for federal aid, Obama said, and so far more than $120 million has been approved. Many people did not have flood insurance.

How much will be needed to help residents has yet to be determined, Obama said, noting that Congress may need to approve more aid. He urged Americans to volunteer and to donate money to the Red Cross.

"This is not a one-off. This is not a photo-op issue. This is, how do you make sure a month from now, three months from now, six months from now, people still are getting the help that they need," Obama said.

Naketa Woods, who owns a home in Castle Place, stood in her driveway in the sweltering heat with her husband waiting to meet with Obama. She said their home was filled with 3 feet of water and they lost all their furniture and two vehicles.

"To have the president come, it means a lot to show that he cares and the federal govern-

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help for Louisiana

President Barack Obama tours a flood-affected area in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, on Tuesday. GETTY IMAGES

ment cares about what we are going through," Woods said.

Obama was criticized last week for not cutting short his New England vacation to go to Louisiana.

Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump, who was in Louisiana on Friday, said on Twitter, "President Obama should have gone to Louisiana days ago, instead of golfing. Too little, too late!"

However, Democratic Governor John Bel Edwards had asked Obama to delay his visit because presidential visits require a huge retinue of Secret Service agents and tie up local and state law enforcement resources needed elsewhere in disasters. Edwards had asked Trump not to visit for a photo opportunity.

Obama had received updates on the flooding from U.S. Homeland Security Secretary Jeh Johnson and Federal Emergency Management Agency Administrator Craig Fugate, both of whom went to Louisiana.

"Nobody gives a hoot whether you're Democrat or Republican. What they care about is making sure they're getting the drywall out, the carpet out, there's not any mold building," he said.

Louisiana Lt. Gov. Billy Nungesser, a Republican, dismissed the debate. "I'm just glad he's here," Nungesser told MSNBC in an interview. He said he hoped Obama's visit would bring hope to the state's residents.

"We're going to need a lot of help, a lot of prayers and a lot of work to get back," Nungesser said.

The White House said that while in Baton Rouge Obama would meet with the family of Alton Sterling, a black man shot dead by white police officers in July and the families of officers of the Baton Rouge Police Department and East Baton Rouge Sheriff's Office who were killed and injured in an attack that month. REUTERS

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the word

Ariana Grande and Mac Miller made out

It seems that Ariana Grande is really into all things Mac these days, and we're not just talking about her Viva Glam lipstick collection for M.A.C. cosmetics.

According to TMZ, Grande went out on a steamy date with rapper Mac Miller to Katsu-Ya in Encino, California, on Sunday evening, where the couple were photographed showing major PDA — snuggling and even kissing!

ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES

In previous interviews, Mac referred to the "Into You" singer as just a "homie." Homie or not, it seems like the two were *really* enjoying each others' company on their private outing.

Let's not forget the musicians have some history. Before linking up with Big Sean, Grande released a music video for her hit song "The Way," where the rapper was portrayed as her boyfriend. (They even got their mac on — you know what we mean?)

But we really want to know: Was it Big Sean or Mac Miller that made her feel like a dangerous woman?

Getting Mariah Carey in the mood can be dangerous

Setting the right tone is everything when you're trying to Netflix & chill (look it up, it doesn't mean marathoning "Game of Thrones"). And Mariah Carey's Aussie billionaire fiance badly misjudged this one.

James Packer, 48, has been with Carey for awhile, so you'd think he'd know what she likes to listen to. But, according to The Fix, one recent night he put on Beyonce's "Crazy in Love" to get her in the mood — and the "Fantasy" singer shut it down by throwing the computer playing the song out a window.

"Seriously, just trashed it," the source tells The Fix. "She ran out of the room screaming. So the night was obviously finished for James, and they retreated to separate parts of the house."

Apparently, the 47-year-old Carey's musical grievances don't stop at Beyonce — the source says in another incident, JLo's "Waiting for Tonight" led to Carey coughing up a bite of her dinner. "[Packer] has learned never, ever to play another female artist in the house. It's either Mariah, jazz or classical!"

Jennifer Lawrence made a ton of money, but not as much as last year

Jennifer Lawrence is making bank, according to Forbes' annual estimated ranking of the celeb salaries. The "X-Men" actress raked in $46 million pretax this year, $6 million shy of her No. 1 spot last year, but who's counting? The salary is based on data from Nielson, IMDB and other industry sources, and includes Lawrence's box office fee from the final "Hunger Games" film and an up-front for her upcoming Chris Pratt sci-fi drama, "Passengers."

(She got a reported $20 million, while Pratt got $10 million. Sad!)

In the ranking of actresses' salaries, "Ghostbusters" star Melissa McCarthy gained traction from her No. 3 spot last year, coming in second with $33 million. Scarlett Johansson ($25 million) and Jennifer Aniston ($21 million) at third and fourth, respectively. The only actresses of color (Bollywood's Deepika Padukone, $10 million, and China's Fan Bingbing, $17 million) are notably absent from Hollywood cinema, which makes us feel a little bit dead inside.

Drake didn't get turnt up in Philly

On Sunday night, Drake was in Meek Mill territory — performing a show at the Wells Fargo Center in Philadelphia. According to TMZ, Meek was planning for Drake's arrival and had members of his crew call all of the clubs in town to turn down the "Hotline Bling" rapper if he wanted to throw an after party.

In addition, TMZ reports that Meek's entourage also put out a warning to Drake's people, saying that "there better not be any disrespect when they got to Philly."

This reignited the long-running beef between Meek Mill and Drake, which started back when Meek accused him of not writing his own raps.

Drake reportedly called Meek Mills a p—y at his D.C. show Saturday and lambasted him even more on his home turf Sunday night, performing his diss anthem to Meek — "Back to Back."

After the Philly show, Drake didn't stay to party although it's not clear if it was due to Meek's "club block" or not.

Will these two ever quit going at each other?

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Fall means new TV, so get the popcorn ready

Geek Girl in Hollywood

JENNA BUSCH
legionofleia.com

Everyone is heading back to school this week, and despite the fact that I've been out of school for years, the lead-up to fall brings certain things out in me, like the overwhelming desire to buy a Kylo Ren notebook and a pack of new pens. I'm also excited for fall TV.

Of course, TV doesn't work the way it did when I was a kid. Sure, there's a fall season, but there are summer shows and spring shows and winter shows. There are shows that stream and "force" me to marathon them. There are shows I heard about once around this time last year, only to find out they are still on the air. I'm just ready to sit down with some popcorn and revel in what is still the blockbuster season of television.

Here's a small sampling of my must-see TV:

I've been completely riveted by Netflix's Marvel series. "Daredevil" totally blew me away with its grittiness, its heart and its stars. "Jessica Jones" was glorious; it proved — and oh my God, why do we still have to prove — that a female comic-book lead can be a mainstream success. It also introduced the intriguing **Luke Cage**, who is getting his own self-titled show (Sept. 30). Mike Colter did a bang-up job with the role (pun intended), and I'm dying to see what's next for the character.

Yes, I know Fox's **"The Rocky Horror Picture Show"** is a one-night thing, and I'm not even a fan of live TV musicals. I did musical theater for years, and I just don't think broadcast television does these productions justice.

That said, this is one of my favorites, and knowing that we're going to see Laverne Cox as Dr. Frank-N-Furter and Tim Curry (the original Frank) as the Criminologist has me ready to jump in Oct. 20.

Fox's new live action-animation series "Son of Zorn" premieres Sept. 25. FOX

In the silliness department, I'm dying to watch **"Son of Zorn,"** which has an animated beefcake warrior living in real-world Southern California. The endless promos on the Fox app for once got me more excited than annoyed (Sept. 25).

Then there is **"The Good Place"** (Sept. 19). I'm not always a huge fan of networks, but after the past few months, I'm looking for something to make me laugh, and NBC's trailer is kind of cute.

Finally, I'm looking forward to **"Timeless,"** with the promising premise that someone stole a time-travel device, and they're about to mess up the world (Oct. 3).

What new shows are you looking forward to? Tweet me @JennaBusch and let me know!

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Behind 'Stranger Things'

The Duffer brothers on reviving the '80s and what's next.

JOSE BARRETO
Metro World News
letters@metro.us

"In the end, it's fun that fans discuss and decide which season is better," says Ross.
CURTIS BAKER, NETFLIX

Netflix's "Stranger Things" has amassed a cult following since its mid-July debut. And now that most have binged the sci-fi series steeped in '80s nostalgia, the pressure for a sequel is on for sibling creators Matt and Ross Duffer.

"Just by hearing the question we get stressed," says Matt with a laugh. "I know that we are now on the radar and many people want to know what will happen, but we try not to think about it."

The 32-year-old twins — influenced by pop culture icons from Steven Spielberg films to Dungeons & Dragons — say they want to continue writing the types of stories they want to see.

Fans have flooded the internet with theories about the series.

Matt: We read what fans write, and, believe it or not, we take it into account. Followers are becoming great inspirations for us.

One theory says a second season would not see the same cast of children.

M: Calm down. The kids are not going anywhere. At least not all of them [laughs]. We want the same thing to happen like with "Harry Potter," so the audience can see them grow. We are excited because these guys will be very recognizable later.

None of them are older than 12, so how was it for them to play kids from the '80s?

Ross: They had a lot of fun. But, in certain scenes they asked us, "What are these things?" when they used walkie-talkies. The wonderful thing is that they all played around a lot on set and became great friends while shooting — they even forgot about their phones.

Ross Duffer (left) and Matt Duffer
GETTY IMAGES

Are you planning for several seasons?

M: For now, we want the series to be credible in the science-fiction genre.
R: We have nothing boxed in. We want to make the story the one that tells us where to go. That's the great thing about working at Netflix. We have total freedom.

A lot of networks rejected "Stranger Things," so what would you say to those executives?

M: Thank you! Because all roads brought us here. We had not come to Netflix first because we never believed that they would accept. Our show has elements that can be uncomfortable for some. In principle, you have five children in leading roles in a show that is not for children. Also, Matt and I did not want to give in with the story. We knew this was not the typical series that would be accepted by the typical American TV station and that the road would be hard.

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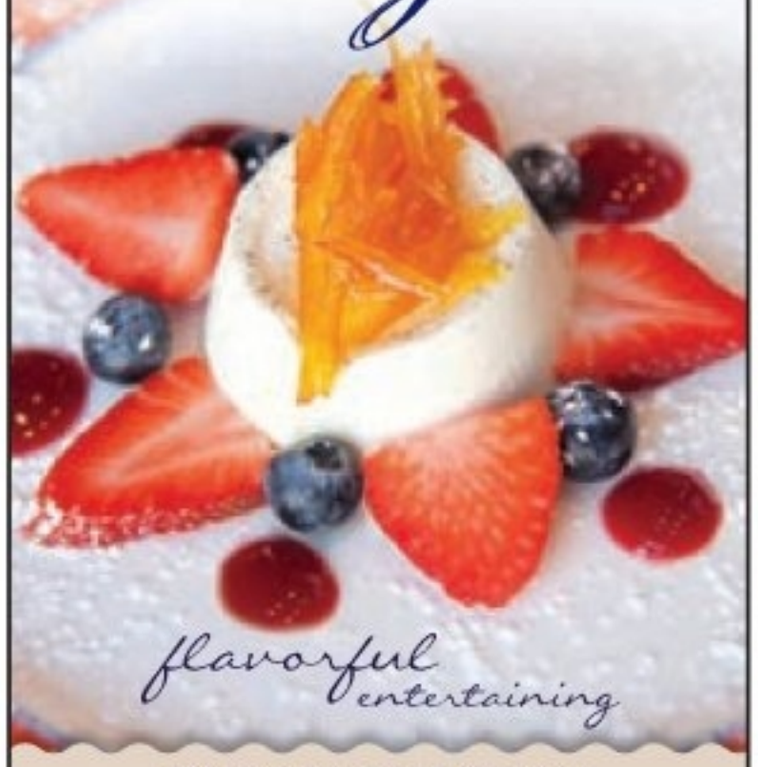

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EnVoute: Magic and Burlesque pays tribute to Wes Anderson

Expect to be dazzled.

MIKE FENN
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Wes Anderson fans will love this burlesque show. DAVID SARRAFIAN

To any nightlife fan in Philadelphia, it is no secret that the city's burlesque scene is as strong — if not stronger — than it was in the art form's heyday during the first half of the 20th century. Week after week, colorful and, of course, sexy performers grace beautiful stages and tantalize audiences with their own lively and often hilarious takes on music from every era.

EnVoute: Magic and Burlesque is one of the city's premiere burlesque troupes. On the last Sunday of every month, its rotating cast of stellar performers pack the gorgeous L'Etage stage in Queen Village to capacity with their unique shows.

Curator "Adam," who is also the founder of the equally successful Olde City Cabaret, ensures his shows are always chockfull of entertainment almost anyone can relate to.

This month, Adam and his troupe close out the summer with their show "An Ode to Wes Anderson," which, as its name implies, celebrates the vibrant work of one of the most cherished independent directors in Hollywood.

"Wes Anderson is a theme that strikes a chord with many members of the troupe," Adam says. "Not only is the quirky, stylish and vintage look something we embrace in all our shows but, like our 'Addams Family' and 'Lost Generation' productions, it is very typecast."

The troupe's ode to Anderson promises everything from the eccentricity of the Tenenbaums (from Anderson's "The Royal Tenenbaums") to the whimsy of "Moonrise Kingdom." In addition to Adam himself, performers include The Amazing Brettzo, Little Miss Rollerhoops and Tootsie Von Cuspid. The hosts for the festivities will be local burlesque star Liberty Rose and stand-up comedian Hannah Harkness; both will, like the rest of the cast, be decked out as signature Anderson characters.

Tickets for EnVoute's "Ode to Wes Anderson" are $15 and can be bought in advance or at the door. Doors open at 7 p.m. and the show kicks off promptly at 8 p.m. In addition to the performances, audience members may also purchase raffle tickets for $1 apiece that promise "interesting prizes."

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DIY expert Monica Mangin talks finding inspiration

The Bucks County native now has a series with Lowes called "The Weekender."

JENNIFER LOGUE
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Monica Mangin wears many hats: DIY expert, TV personality, entrepreneur, wife and mother. Back in 2011, she started a blog called East Coast Creative and soon found herself making guest appearances on shows like "Live! With Kelly" teaching viewers how to make their homes more beautiful — even on the smallest budget. Mangin now has a series with Lowes called "The Weekender" where she transforms a space with five projects over a weekend. We chatted with the Bucks County native about how she got her start and how to tackle a home makeover.

How did you become a DIY expert?

Trial and error. [Laughs] I started off as a DIY blogger seven years ago and was just crafting projects in my own home. We had young kids, no money and I really wanted a house that I thought was cool. So my best friend and I just started doing a lot of projects, started a blog and I realized that I was passionate about doing that. From there our blog took off. Our first appearance [as DIY experts] came with "The Nate Berkus Show." I did four guest appearances on that and was like, "Wait they are telling me I know what I am doing? Maybe I know what I am doing."

I didn't know you started the blog with your best friend.

I did. It's kinda funny. We started our blog as "The Real Housewives of Bucks County." It was very tongue-in-cheek. We were like, "This is just for us. No one is ever going to look at it." Then it kinda blew up and we were on TV. Then we got a very sweet letter from NBC Universal saying we can't use that name. So we switched over to "East Coast Creative" about a year and a half in.

Where do you find inspiration for a space?

I really try to talk to the homeowner as much as I can first. If I am working with someone as a client, I want to find out what their deal is, what are things that are going to make them excited. But if I am going into a space and it is for me, color is huge. So I decide what color direction are we going in. Are we going bright and bold? What kind of statement are we making with the color? Then I think of what style are we going for. Are we going mid-century modern? Are we going traditional? Are we going modern farmhouse? My style will dictate my furniture. And then after that, it's things like accessories.

The next episode of Lowes "The Weekender" will be available for streaming on YouTube on Thursday, Aug. 25.

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NFL preseason power rankings | by Luke Miller

No. 1

Seahawks
Last season: 10-6

Marshawn Lynch may be gone, and that may make Seattle less interesting, but the run game appears to be in good hands with Thomas Rawls. Now the passing game has to rediscover the hot streak they ended the season on. Well-known fact: The defense is fine.

No. 2

Panthers (15-1)

The Panthers and Broncos open the NFL season in a Super Bowl rematch with decidedly less at stake. Cam Newton will welcome Kelvin Benjamin back to the fold, and the defense will try to replace Josh Norman, inexplicably allowed to walk.

No. 3

Cardinals (13-3)

Carson Palmer and the Cardinals have some postseason image redemption to do, but Step 1 is getting there. Despite their place in a division with our No. 1 team, they're still well-positioned. Stay tuned to see if David Johnson lives up to the fantasy hype.

No. 4

Broncos (12-4)

Peyton's last hurrah was a great story, but it was the defense that won this championship and that defense is still in town. Mark Sanchez rode a great defense to two AFC Championship games before, he (or Trevor Siemian or Paxton Lynch) can do it again.

No. 5

Patriots (12-4)

Lots of quarterback issues early on in this list. But you can trust the Patriots' situation to clear up sometime around Week 5. Tom Brady will get to face the Browns for a welcome back party. After that, you might feel pretty good about the way they look.

No. 6

Packers (10-6)

Jordy Nelson is back! Eddie Lacy is back! The Packers' offense is back! Don't listen to Aaron Rodgers, Packers fans. You don't need to relax.

No. 7

Steelers (10-6)

The Steelers' offense on the other hand, will be back shortly. Once Le'Veon Bell returns, the best unit in football will hopefully get more help from the defense and take advantage of a depleted Bengals team to grab a firmer hold on the division once again.

No. 8

Vikings (11-5)

The season can't start soon enough for Vikings fans to get that taste out of their mouths. This is a team that ascended a little faster than predicted last season. They should have beaten the No. 1 team on this list in the playoffs. Laquon Treadwell should help the offense keep heading in the right direction.

No. 9

Chiefs (11-5)

The Chiefs run from 1-5 to 11-5 and a playoff victory was the stuff of legend, but you could see the making of it. This team was expected to be good and lost several close games to outstanding competition last season.

No. 10

Raiders (7-9)

Speaking of the AFC West being there for the taking, this is the Oakland Raiders ranked in the top 10. Their toughest hurdle to a 5-0 start is the Falcons. Get used to it and stay tuned for the Jacksonville Jaguars appearing in the top 15.

No. 11

Texans (9-7)

The Texans were AFC South division champions with some combination of Brian Hoyer, Ryan Mallett, T.J. Yates, and a player yet to be named at quarterback in 2015. Now QB whisperer Bill O'Brien gets to try his hand at Brock Osweiler. The sky seems the limit.

No. 12

Jets (10-6)

Ryan Fitzpatrick. Geno Smith. Last year's third-round pick Bryce Petty. This year's second-round pick Christian Hackenberg. The Jets won't carry four quarterbacks, will they? The team added Matt Forte and hopes to repeat last year's historically good offense.

No. 13

Bengals (12-4)

The Bengals have some serious departed yardage to replace on offense, meaning Andy Dalton's task of proving last year was no fluke just got a lot harder. Tyler Boyd should help but the team will have a battle in the AFC North.

No. 14

Redskins (9-7)

Did somebody mention a quarterback out to prove 2015 was no fluke? Look no further than Kirk Cousins. It's no shame being outgunned by the Packers in the playoffs. Even with Tony Romo back the NFC East looks as wide open as last season.

No. 15

Jaguars (5-11)

The talent. The young talent. Jacksonville only got more Jacksonville by picking up Jalen Ramsey and Myles Jack in the draft this year, and now the defense has excitement to match Blake Bortles, T.J. Yeldon, and the brothers Allen at wide receiver.

No. 25

Eagles (7-9)

Chip Kelly's one off-season roster overhaul didn't work, like everything else Kelly tried in 2015. Will the reverse overhaul fare any better? Without any offensive weapons walking through the door in the right direction, probably not.

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Eagles bring in MLB Tulloch to be Daniel of defense

The Eagles are looking for some outside help to lift the team past some roster shortcomings and injuries.

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Stephen Tulloch will compete for his playing time at linebacker. GETTY IMAGES

Doug Pederson has a walking playbook on the field for him every morning at the NovaCare Center in backup quarterback Chase Daniel.

Pederson and Daniel worked together under Andy Reid in Kansas City prior to moving to the Eagles, and Daniel is the right-hand man teaching future starter Carson Wentz the NFL ropes.

"Chase has done a great job with him and learning as well with Sam [Bradford]," Pederson recently said when asked about the dynamics of the quarterback room.

On the defensive side, coordinator Jim Schwartz is getting a similar lieutenant, as the Birds finally decided to pull the trigger and bring in middle linebacker Stephen Tulloch, a veteran with a multitude of experience playing for Schwartz in Detroit.

"Jim's had great success with defenses in the National Football League and his players always play at a high level," Pederson said. "Anytime, offensively, defensively, or even in special teams, if you can grab a player that you've worked with in the past that knows your terminology and knows your system, I think it's no different than Chase Daniel on offense for me. And having guys like that, that are very comfortable with your defense or offense, just helps the overall learning and helps the overall process of the defense."

Pederson cites Joe Walker's season-ending injury in the last preseason game as the biggest reason why the Eagles made the move now and not sooner — but no promises have been made. Which means Jordan Hicks will be feeling some hot breath on his neck as he tries to protect his starting job.

"He's competing for the spot. Right now Jordan's a starter," Pederson said, also telling the media he didn't expect to move Hicks to the outside. "Just with the loss of Joe right now, we needed a linebacker. He was the best available for us and [we] look forward to working with him."

Tulloch, 31, had 107 tackles last season for the Lions and has nearly 1,000 combined takedowns over a 10-year career with the Titans and Lions.

The linebacker was drafted in 2006 by the Titans in the fourth round, ironically using a pick the Eagles sent to Tennessee in exchange for Winston Justice.

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9 Cobra toxin
14 Matty or Felipe
15 Close in on
16 Invisible swimmer (var.)
17 Hayseed humor
18 Rights org.
19 "C" in C.S. Forester
20 Highest grade
22 Cover, as snow
24 Walrus hunter
26 — be a pleasure!
27 Ads
30 Not in good taste
35 Motel freebies
36 ASAP
37 "The Banana Boat Song" (hyph.)
38 Lb. or oz.
39 Featured musician
42 Eighteen-wheeler
43 Dregs
45 Cast
46 Deli crepes
48 Borrow on
50 Goings-on
51 Hockey great
52 Frighten
54 Dine too well
58 Act as if
62 — Jean Baker
63 Sheriff Andy's kid
65 Dueler's weapon
66 Cherbourg shes
67 Itches
68 Hoarfrost
69 Dilapidated
70 Collapses, in a way
71 Nae sayer

Down

1 Diplomat's forte
2 Put on the brakes
3 Sponge feature
4 Artificial tan source
5 Playing marbles
6 Temple city — Picchu
7 Heating fuel
8 Cold-shoulder
9 Leave the premises
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11 Giraffe feature
12 Drama award
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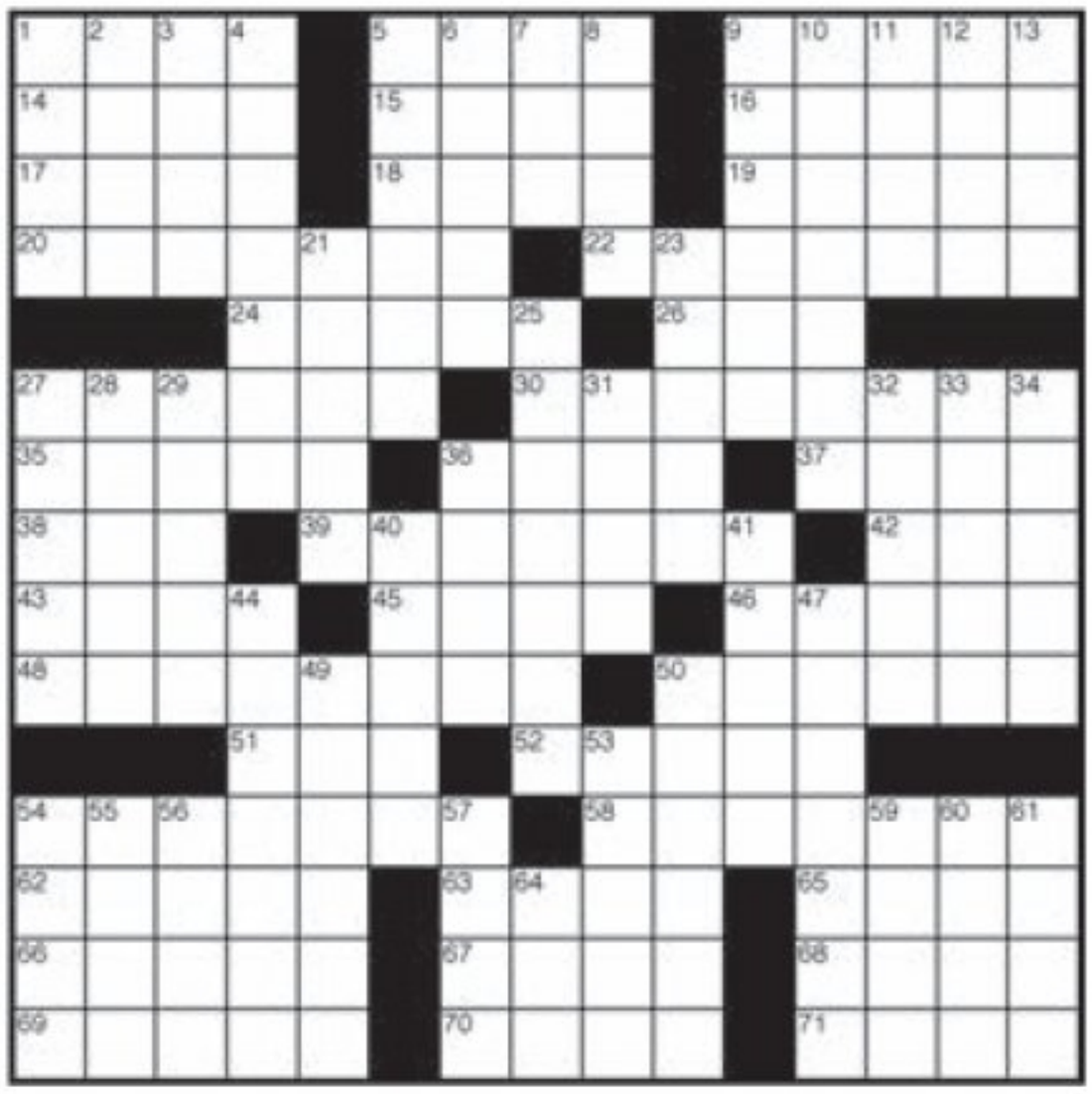

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Aries Don't make rash decisions. Wait until you have all the facts in order to avoid looking bad and being stuck in a no-win situation. Criticism and negativity can be expected.

Taurus Don't feel bad or heed complaints that aren't warranted. Trust in your ability to deal with situations personally and you will avoid meddling and interference.

Gemini Personal improvements are favored. Don't be too vocal about what you want to accomplish. A romantic moment will lead to a closer bond and long-term commitment.

Cancer You've got what it takes to make positive changes at home and work. Your loyalty coupled with a sincere desire to help will put you in a good position.

Leo Make a difference and do what you can to help others. Your strength, courage, drive and physical endurance will turn you into a hero and a leader.

Virgo Learn from the experts and try something new. You'll find your niche if you are open to suggestions and put a new spin on what you already have to offer.

Libra Negotiate on your own behalf in order to get what you want. Dealing with institutions will result in unexpected benefits. Strive to make personal gains.

Scorpio Don't be afraid to do things differently. It's your unique approach that will draw support and bring a chance to reach your goal. Romance is on the rise.

Sagittarius Look for an opening that will help you get ahead. It may take a lot of time and work on your part, but what you get in return will be worth your while.

Capricorn Fixing up your personal space or buying into something that has the potential to grow will encourage you to make purchases that will increase your comfort.

Aquarius Speak from the heart and get to the bottom of uncomfortable situations. Knowing what others want will help you offer incentives that will get you what you want in return.

Pisces Keep your emotions in check. Someone will take advantage of you if you are too accommodating. You cannot please everyone. Be sure to please yourself first. EUGENIA LAST

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